

2021 MEETING MINUTES

Society for Range Management – International Mountain Section **Fall Annual General Meeting – Saturday, November 6, 2021 (9:00 – 10:30 am)** **Online Zoom Meeting**

A total of 21 people attended the business meeting via Zoom, including all executive IMS members. Many thanks to Allison Martin for facilitating the meeting.

1.0 Welcome – Allison Martin, Section President (9:00 am)

2.0 Review of Draft 2020 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes were sent to those who registered for the fall meeting and were also available on our website. No concerns were raised from the previous annual meeting.

Motion: Jennifer Caudron made a motion to accept the 2020 SRM IMS Meeting Minutes.

Second: Clayton Marlow

Motion carried.

3.0 Executive Members

Allison introduced the new IMS executive:

Jennifer Caudron - President

Rick Caquelin (Montana) – 1st VP

Natasha Rinas (Alberta) – 2nd VP

Jillian Kaufmann (Alberta) - Director

Stacey Barta (Montana) - Director

An electronic ballot has been emailed to the membership for 2nd VP and Montana Director. A second ballot for AB Director will be emailed out in the next 2 weeks. First ballot is due back by December 6th, 2021.

Allison noted that the newsletter editor role remains unfilled, and recommended that the President fulfil this role by preparing at least two newsletters per year with help from the executive. Barry Irving suggested that the President delegate newsletter preparation to a member of the executive.

Lisa Raatz and membership thanked Allison for serving as President for the last two terms.

4.0 Financial Report

Lisa provided the financial update for Montana and Alberta accounts. We continue to keep the accounts with a small annual increase in value and do not hold any debt. Unfortunately, our summer tour was cancelled again in 2021 and our fall meeting is online again. These

meetings usually generate revenue for us. Membership appears to be down, however this may be due to reporting errors; further investigation required. A very big Thank You to Barry Adams and Lou Hagener for providing a financial audit on our books again this year.

Lou discussed the issue of retained/declining membership along with the potential to increase the section membership fee from current \$5 to \$10 per person. As well, Lou wanted further discussion on how IMS generates revenue.

Motion: Lou Hagener made a motion that we approve the financial report as presented.

Second: Rick Caquelin

Motion carried.

5.0 Handbook

Allison informed membership that the executive members have completed the final revisions of the Handbook, which is now posted online with an October 2021 publish date. Changes can be ongoing; if members have suggested revisions, they can contact the executive.

6.0 Youth Activities

Allison spoke about the High School Youth Forum and if and how many IMS could sponsor. Currently there are no students to send to the HSYF. Barry Irving suggested putting out a call for applications. The membership discussed planning and ideas for Youth Range Days; Natasha expressed interest in starting a central Alberta Youth Range Days and Tracy and Natasha will meet to share ideas.

7.0 Future IMS Meetings

Barry Irving suggested moving forward with a virtual option for all future meetings, which will require IMS to research and invest in audio-video equipment. Barry Adams volunteered to do research on equipment and prepare a budget for the associated spending.

Motion: Barry made a motion to propose that a virtual platform is available for all IMS meetings moving forward, and for IMS to research costs and options relating to equipment needs.

Second: Clayton Marlow

Motion carried.

8.0 International Year of Rangeland & Pastoralists – Update

Barry Irving provided an update on the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists, which has already passed many hurdles. UN approval is required and if proclaimed, it will be in 2026. National, continental and international groups have formed with roughly 30 countries supporting this initiative. If our membership is interested in getting more involved as part of the North American or Canadian groups or wishes to have more information, contact Barry Irving.

9.0 Parent Society Update & 75th Annual Meeting: Albuquerque, New Mexico - Feb 2022

David Toledo (Board member, SRM) provided an update on the Parent Society and the Annual Meeting:

- 9.1 The annual meeting will have a virtual component, but will also be in-person in New Mexico. SRM is supporting International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and is encouraging more international attendance at our next few meetings.
- 9.2 The SRM parent society is looking for ways to promote Student Council and to get students more involved: waived fees this past year to encourage membership. We are also launching the 'Good Grazing Makes Cent\$' program on the website with content that can be used by our membership. He also encouraged our IMS leadership to participate in Advisory Council meetings which meet quarterly via Zoom; We can have up to 3 of our executive members (President and two elected officers) participate. This is an opportunity for our section to let the Board know of any concerns/suggestions. Lastly, David reminded our membership to participate in the Diversity and Inclusion Survey which closes November 10.
- 9.3 David and Allison shared that SRM is offering Regional Coordinator positions that will be available to sections. This comes with \$5000 to participating sections that can provide matching funds. The intent is to attract a young professional, student or part-time individual to act as a liaison with multiple groups. Membership discussed logistics of the role including our unique cross-border position. Jennifer will share feedback with the Advisory Council in her new role as President.

Barry Irving expressed his gratitude for David's update and presentation.

10.0 American Prairie Reserve – Update

Allison spoke about the American Prairie Reserve (located in northeastern MT) proposal for change in management of these lands, such as the removal of fencing, but continuing with the same AUMs. The membership concluded that IMS should invest in visiting the APR to gain more knowledge and collaboration. Clayton also gave an update about meeting with APR & BLM related to the reintroduction of free-roaming bison. They are open to hearing from experts.

On a related theme in Alberta, Ryan James and Lysandra Pyle also spoke about range resources and mentorship for ABMI vegetation assessment and monitoring.

11.0 Wrap up

Allison thanked everyone for attending the meeting; the fall workshop starts at 11:00 after a short break.

Motion: Allison moved to adjourn the meeting (10:40 am).

Second: Lisa Raatz

Motion carried.